

# MAKING FORAGES WORK DOWN ON THE FARM

*Todd Clark*

Beef/Hay Producer  
Fayette County

## **Todd Clark**

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## **Introduction**

- First Generation Full Time Farmer
- Married for 12 years with two children
- Started farming with tobacco and custom baling hay
- Began full time farm operation in 1988 after graduating from High School
- “Started with a dream and little else....”

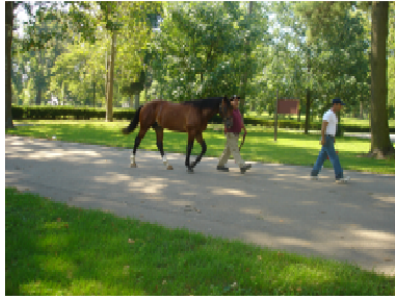
## My family !



## Farm Overview

- Farm located in northern Fayette county, Lexington, KY
- 72 acres on “Home Farm”, purchased in 1996
- Approximately another 290 acres rented
- Additional 220 acres custom baled

## Farming operation located in Horse Capital of the World!



## Inner Bluegrass facts

- 20,000 mares
- 8,418 horses sold @ Keeneland 2006
- 2,100 horses sold @ Fasig Tipton 2006
- 368 thoroughbred stallions
- In excess of 1 Billion in sales of thoroughbred horses

## Farm Overview Continued

- Approximately 38,000 small square bales produced in 2006
- Approximately 1,500 round bales
- Run 280 feeder calves per year
- Produce 85 acres of Burley Tobacco
- Raise and Sale additional 440 acres of tobacco float plants for other producers as well as my own use

## Most hay production utilized by horse market



## Forage Operations

- “Home Farm” Forage Program which includes a adjoining rented farm
- 150 Acre Block that is rotationally grazed and/or hayed
- Grazed 122 steers for 183 days
- Starting weight of 455lbs with an ending weight of 830lbs
- Average Daily Gain of just over 2lbs/day



## Forage Operations



- In addition to grazing, also baled 4,330 small square bales
- Produced 61 bales of haylage weighing 1,700lbs each
- Feeders grazed blocks ranging from ½ acre to 5 acres in size for no more than three days per rotation

## Forage Operation

- Feeders were fed 7 to 8lbs of Soy Hulls for 90 days due to dry conditions
- Each acre of forage produced approximately 300lbs of beef in addition to 1 ton of hay
- Small Square Bales were sold to local small horse farms
- Haylage was fed to a new group of feeders located on the same farm in the fall

## Forage Operation

- “Home Farm” averaged nearly \$250 net profit per acre for that 180 day period.
- Same acreage is now being utilized by additional 100 steers.
- Steers were fed haylage baled earlier in the year, grazed remaining forage and some soy hulls.



## Forage Operation

- Additional 50 acres rotationally grazed in same manner
- Baled an additional 14,000 small bales marketed to small local horse farms
- Custom harvest grass bedding for Thoroughbred Horse Farms, approximately 24,000 small bales in 2006
- Custom rolled 850 bales for Thoroughbred and Saddlebred Horse farms
- Rolled 450 bales of hay that was marketed to other horse farms in the area
- Market roughly 10,000 bales of wheat straw each year
- Also market 5,000 bales of Alfalfa/Orchardgrass Mix

**Most hay is free for the removal, later being sold back to operations in need.**



## Forage Operation

- Continuously looking for better and more profitable methods such as brassicas, MIG, etc.



**“...and the dream continues.”**





**Make the most of what is in front of you!**



**Clark Family Farms**

- Thank you!